

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PEKING 00559 140500Z

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 CU-04 SS-15 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 RSR-01 /056 W

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P 140405Z JUL 73

FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 419

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 0559

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CH, CGEN

SUBJ: ESCORT OFFICERS FOR WHITE HOUSE FELLOWS GROUP

REF: STATE 137565, PEKING 0518, PEKING 0557

1. REFERENCED PEKING TELS OUTLINED USLO POSITION ON HAVING DEPARTMENT AND HONG KONG RATHER THAN USLO HANDLE QUESTION OF HONG KONG-NOMINATED ESCORT OFFICERS, AND ON PROVIDING US WITH AMPLE LEAD TIME IN REQUESTING VISITORS' VISAS FROM MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE FOR DEPARTMENT, NOT RPT NOT USLO, TO MAKE INITIAL APPROACH FOR VISA TO PRCLO WASHINGTON FOR HONG KONG NOMINEE TO ACCOMPANY WHITEHOUSE FELLOWS GROUP TO PRC. PRCLO COULD EITHER REQUEST MFA TO HAVE CHINA TRAVEL SERVICE ISSUE VISA IN HONG KONG, OR WE COULD FOLLOW UP HERE IN USUAL WAY ONCE MFA INFORMED. FACT THAT TRAVEL OF WHITE HOUSE FELLOWS HAS SO FAR BEEN ARRANGED WHOLLY IN WASHINGTON MAKES IT ENTIRELY APPROPRIATE FOR ADDITIONAL NAME TO BE FURNISHED PRC THERE.

2. SINCE USLO'S LATEST ENCOUNTER WITH MFA ON SUBJECT OF PROVIDING SUFFICIENT ADVANCE NOTIFICATION OF VISA REQUESTS OCCURRED JULY 13 PEKING TIME, IN ABSENCE OF ACTION REQUESTED ABOVE MFA WOULD PROBABLY NOT REACT VERY KINDLY TO OUR COMING AROUND THREE DAYS LATER -- EARLIEST WE CAN APPROACH THEM -- TO ASK FOR ISSUANCE OF VISA ON 7 DAYS NOTICE. THERE WOULD HAVE BEEN NO PROBLEM HAD WE BEEN INFORMED OF WHITE HOUSE FELLOWS VISIT SOONER THAN JULY 14.

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3. WE WILL CONFIRM WHITE HOUSE FELLOWS TRIP WITH MFA AND TAKE
UNDER CONSIDERATION NOMINATION OF USLO OFFICER TO ACCOMPANY GROUP
WHILE IN PRC. OUR RESOURCES MAY WELL BE STRETCHED THIN IN
VIEW OF POSSIBILITY PARTY CONGRESS WILL BE HELD ABOUT THIS TIME.
BRUCE

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